

Frequently Asked Questions

A. Grandfathered Early Childhood Endorsement

A1

What do I need to send in or bring with me to apply for the grandfathering clause?

- Letter of verification from your district Superintendent, HR director or personnel director, or the highest ranking official in the school system indicating the grade levels and subjects taught by the applicant on a full-time basis
- Completed "Application for Certificate" downloadable from the website: <http://www.ade.az.gov/certification/downloads/Application.pdf>
- Xeroxed copy of your plastic fingerprint clearance card
- \$60.00 fee

You do not need to send or bring your certificate or transcripts. After August 31, 2006, applicants must also take the Early Childhood AEPA, currently being developed.

A2

I'm a special education teacher in a cross-categorical, self-contained classroom with children grades K-6 (or K-8). Do I need the endorsement since I have K students in my class?

No. However, any teacher currently holding a special education certificate is encouraged to apply for the grandfathered endorsement if they may have typically developing children in their classroom in the future, or if they are considering teaching in a typical early childhood environment. Teachers with a special education certificate and 3 years teaching experience during the past 10 years will qualify for the grandfathering clause through July 1, 2009.

A3

Do my years of experience teaching 1st, 2nd or 3rd graders count toward the grandfathered endorsement?

Yes; early childhood is defined as birth through grade 3.

A4

If I have an early childhood special education certificate, do I need to apply for the grandfathered endorsement in order to continue teaching preschool children with disabilities?

No. You are certified to teach early childhood special education. However, if you would like to teach in a regular education early childhood program such as Early Childhood Block Grant or Title I preschool you would need to apply for an Early Childhood Endorsement. The Early Childhood Endorsement would also allow you to teach kindergarten regular education as well.

A5

If I am a Title I tutor, a certified teacher and work with K-3, can I apply for a grandfathered endorsement?

Yes, if you have a valid elementary or special education certificate and have taught 3 out of the past ten years. You can also apply for the endorsement by meeting the coursework and practicum requirements.

A6

I am a program administrator that works in the early childhood field, but have not taught in a classroom for 3 out of the past 10 years? May I apply for the endorsement?

Yes. Qualification for the grandfathered Early Childhood Endorsement requires a teaching certificate and 3 years teaching experience in birth through grade 3 for 3 out of the past 10 years and is available through July 1, 2009. However, building and program administrators who do not meet the requirements for a grandfathered endorsement may qualify for the certification or endorsement through college coursework they have taken and other teaching experience. The practicum requirements (or teaching experience in lieu of a practicum) do not have a time frame on them when used to qualify for the certification or a non-grandfathered endorsement. The practicum can occur at any time and is not limited to the past 10 years.

A7

I am certified in elementary education and I have taught kindergarten or first grade for the last 4 years. I want to apply for the endorsement, but wonder if the early childhood certification would be more valuable.

The endorsement and certification are comparable. The endorsement carries the same value as the certification.

B. Early Childhood Certification/Endorsement**B1:**

I'm moving from out of state, how do I apply?

It is best to talk to someone in the Teacher Certification Unit because your situation may be unique (602-542-4367 or see: <http://www.ade.az.gov/certification/>).

B2:

I'm a special education itinerant or resource teacher. Do I need the endorsement/certificate?

No, only the "teacher of record" or lead teacher in the classroom is required to have the endorsement/certificate.

B3:

I'm a "specials" teacher (eg, music, art, PE). Do I need the certification/endorsement?

No, only the "teacher of record" or lead teacher in the classroom is required to have the endorsement/certificate.

B4:

I have an elementary certificate which already states Early Childhood as an "Approved Area". Does this mean I am already certified?

No. Many years ago, Arizona Elementary Education certificates could be issued with an "Approved Area" in early childhood. However, the "Approved Area" designation meant the certificate holder had an emphasis in K-3. Therefore, it does not meet the current Early Childhood Education certification requirements.

B5:

If I have an early childhood special education certificate and I am teaching children with special needs along with children who are typically developing, do I need the Early Childhood Education endorsement/certification?

Yes, the law states: teachers serving or instructing *typically developing children ages birth through kindergarten in public school early childhood programs* are required to obtain the Early Childhood Education Certificate or Endorsement by July 1, 2009.

B6:

How does an early interventionist who works only with children age birth to age 2 and their families qualify for the certification/endorsement?

As long as the early interventionist already holds a teaching certificate, they will qualify for the endorsement by a) being grandfathered if they have 3 years out of the past 10 years full-time instructional experience working with the young children and their families or will obtain 3 years by July 1, 2009; or b) meeting the qualifications of the endorsement as stated in the endorsement requirements:

<http://www.ade.az.gov/certification/requirements/TeachingCerts/EarlyChildhood.pdf> .

B7:

I obtained an out of state Education degree in Early Childhood from an approved teacher preparation program prior to 2006, and was not required to complete a practicum experience in the birth through pre-K level. Can I qualify for the certification/endorsement?

Yes. Because you completed an approved teacher preparation program in Early Childhood Education, you automatically qualify for the Arizona certification.

B8:

I am a PreK director for a school district and have a Head Start program on my campus. Do the Head Start teachers on my campus have to have the Early Childhood Certification by July 1, 2009?

If a district is a delegate agency for a Head Start grantee, then that district has fiscal and administrative authority for the Head Start program, and the Head Start is considered a district program. Therefore, the ECE Certification will apply to those Head Start teachers in a district that acts as a delegate agency for a Head Start grantee. If the district is merely allowing Head Start space on their campus, then the teachers must follow Head Start guidelines for teacher qualifications.

B9

I am a Head Start teacher. Do I have to have the Early Childhood Certification by July 1, 2009?

It depends on whether or not the Head Start program is administered by a public school district, which means the school district is a delegate agency of Head Start. If a school district is a delegate agency, all *district* Head Start teachers need to hold an Early Childhood Certification or Endorsement by July 1, 2009.

Also, if your Head Start classroom receives Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) or Family Literacy funds then you need an Early Childhood Education certification or endorsement by July 1, 2009.

If the district is merely allowing Head Start space on their campus, then you must follow Head Start guidelines for teacher qualifications.